Isabella Cleghorn

Queen’s Garden Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The play is set right now with Brenda Aoki who is in her performance space preparing to tell a story. She is creating a theatre with her imagination. She is creating the stasis through her story telling.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is when Collie and Smoke are introduced in the first place causing distress to the principle women in the play. When she enters into high school and is mixed with the white people.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

That Brenda chooses to tell her story to us.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Collie and Brenda end up together?

What will Brenda do about Collie’s problems?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

All of the characters are aware of the place and people that are introduced in the prologue, but they don’t all know about the drug and gang activity that is going on between Smoke and Collie.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is the ending, The Shoot Out, where Aunt Mary and Collie are killed by Smoke.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

The main theme is definitely racial differences, divisions in education, love, sacrifice, and slight feminist properties. Gangs, drugs and violence in minority males.

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Brenda wants to get away from the West Side, but she becomes a teacher in the exact high school she grew up in. Collie also stands in the way of her normal life when she moves to San Fransisco, and she becomes invested in him once again.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The red roses are an image that becomes prevalent throughout the entire production. They come to represent Aunt Mary and Collie. The garden in general seemed to serve as some kind of vision of a sanctuary for Brenda and Aunt Mary.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Family seems a bit distant for Brenda, probably because she had a big family with lots of siblings and didn’t have very much money. Later in the play, it seems as if her family is ashamed of her at one point during the play and question whether she should be a part of the family since she had changed so much. But Aunt Mary had always been representative of real family and sacrifice although she wasn’t directly related to Brenda. For Collie, his family was very invested in him although he had made the bad decisions that ultimately killed him and his mother both.